Wheat Export

1207. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat exported from the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the estimate of wheat to be exported this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The total quantity and value of wheat exported during the last 3 years is as under:

Qty. in Lakh MT
Value: Rs. crores

Year	Qty.	Value
1999-2000	—	—
2000-01	8.13	415.09
2001-02(P)	26.49	1330.21
2002-03 (April-August, 2002)	15.23	727.28

Source: DGCI & S Calcutta

(b) It is not possible to estimate the quantity and value of wheat to be exported, as the same would be a function of various factors, including international demand and supply situation.

Status of domestic newsprint industry

1208. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the domestic newsprint industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that because of rampant dumping of newsprint by Russia, Poland, Indonesia and Canada, the domestic newsprint industry is facing severe crisis; and

(c) if so, the efforts taken by his Ministry in this direction since January, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) There are 65 mills (4 in Central Public

Sector, 2 in State Public Sector and 59 in Private Sector) with a total installed capacity of 12.25 lakh tonnes registered under Schedule-I of the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 as mills producing newsprint. Actual production and import of newsprint during the last three years was as follows:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Domestic Production	Import
1999-2000	5.04	4.39
2000-2001	6.34	4.42 (Provisional)
2001-2002	6.20	4.08
2002-2003	2.82	1.72
	(Upto September, 2002)	(Upto July, 2002)

(b) and (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties) have informed that they have not received any petition for initiating investigation on import of newsprint from any country since January, 2002.

Plan to phase out tobacco production

1209. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to work-out on a plan to phase out tobacco production in the country over the next five to six years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of tabacco farmers and manufacturers of tabacco thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Earning of foreign exchange by EPZ and SEZ units

1210. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of units which have started functioning in the Export Processing Zones and the Special Economic Zones in the country;